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Letter dated 7 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to our many letters concerning the payment of the arrears in Iraq's contributions to the budget of the United Nations. The last such letter was that of 5 February 2002, and in it we requested that consideration be given to the possibility of Iraq's arrears to the Organization being paid from the revenues realized from Iraqi oil exported under the memorandum of understanding and the oil-for-food programme.

Iraq has not paid its contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations because of circumstances beyond its control resulting from the comprehensive sanctions that have now been maintained against the country for more than 12 years. Since 1994, Iraq has made many suggestions for the payment of its arrears from Iraqi assets blocked in overseas banks or from the proceeds of the sale of Iraqi petroleum in the context of the memorandum of understanding and the oil-for-food programme. However, the United States and the United Kingdom are opposed to any such solution and attach political conditions to their approval of Iraq's use of its assets to meet its financial obligations to the Organization. In doing so, they are motivated by a policy of using the mechanisms of the United Nations in order to impose a political, economic, military and public information blockade on Iraq and commit aggression against it.

I should like to recall in this connection that the United Nations and those of its specialized agencies that operate in Iraq in the framework of the oil-for-food programme obtain major financial resources from the programme, so that they now fund their headquarters budgets from Iraqi resources. There is also the fact that there are in some of the sub-accounts established by resolution 986 (1995) hundreds of millions of dollars in surplus funds. These include the 2.2 per cent account that is designated to meet operational and administrative costs. It is therefore not logical

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that Iraq should be the major contributor to the budgets of these agencies from funds that are designated for humanitarian purposes while its right to use these funds for the payment of its contributions to the United Nations is being denied.

Given Iraq's desire to alleviate the critical financial situation of the Organization's budget and its readiness to pay its arrears of 12,399,800 dollars in full, I request you to ask the Security Council to allow Iraq's arrears to be paid from the sums accumulated in the account for administrative and operational costs, namely the account established for the 2.2 per cent that is withheld from the revenues under the memorandum of understanding and the oil-for-food programme.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 119 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative